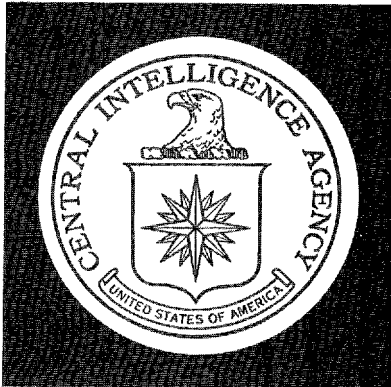


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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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5 September 1968

State Department review completed

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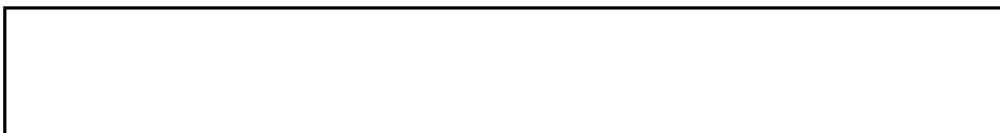
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Eastern Europe: Uncertainty about Soviet intentions in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe is keeping tensions in the capitals of the area high.

In Czechoslovakia, the Soviets are only slowly and irregularly reducing their visible presence and control, and Prague's leaders remain uncertain how much freedom they will have. Soviet troops apparently have vacated the radio and television stations in Prague but continue to occupy several of the newspaper offices. The troops reportedly are to complete their withdrawal from the center of Prague by today, but large concentrations of armor and troops were seen in downtown areas yesterday.

Pravda yesterday warned that Soviet troops had to remain in the country, citing unspecified "counterrevolutionary" activity as justification. Both the East German and Polish party dailies printed similar statements.

The Dubcek regime, meanwhile, is attempting to convey the impression that it is taking hold, but Premier Cernik reportedly informed a group of intellectuals on 2 September that the regime is uncertain how much Moscow will restrict Prague's freedom of action. Cernik apparently believes there are close to 800 KGB personnel in Czechoslovakia. Journalists and intellectuals continue to remain sensitive to reports of a planned purge of cultural workers. Their deep disquiet is reflected in continuing reports about an exodus of the intelligentsia.

Rumania, in the meantime, continues to show signs that it fears a Soviet invasion. According to a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry official, Bucharest informed the Yugoslavs on 3 September that three Soviet divisions are in Bulgaria and six additional divisions have moved into Hungary from the USSR. ]

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[ There is still no good evidence of the presence of any Soviet troops in Bulgaria.

The US Embassy in Budapest, moreover, commented yesterday that

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[ ] has failed to confirm the presence of even one additional Soviet division in that country.

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Yugoslavia itself continues to evidence signs of nervousness. The Yugoslav ambassador in Prague apparently fears a military move against his country, and informed Ambassador Beam that in Soviet eyes Yugoslavia was the "villain in the piece." Yugoslav armed forces remain on alert and have prepared ground force defensive positions facing Hungary and Bulgaria.

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Israel - Arab States: Terrorist bombings in Tel Aviv yesterday may signal the beginning of a more daring form of terrorist activity.

The incident, which marks the first major damage inflicted by terrorists in Tel Aviv, could lead the Israeli Government to impose severe civil control measures on Israel's Arab population. Bombings took place last month in Jerusalem as well.

Israel is probably tempted to make another major reprisal strike against some Arab state. Firefights have continued on a daily basis along the Israel-Jordan cease-fire lines--the latest, on 4 September, involving military units in northern Jordan--and exchanges of fire have also occurred on the previously quiet Syrian frontier. The Israelis, however, may be deterred for the moment from making a major strike by the current Security Council consideration of their recent complaint against Egypt.

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Libya: Prime Minister Bakkush has apparently resigned, to be replaced by Wanis al-Qaddafi, minister of foreign affairs.

Since the beginning of June, Bakkush had been subjected to steadily increasing criticism, mainly by former prime ministers and other members of the establishment. [REDACTED]

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Qaddafi has served in a number of cabinet positions and is a career civil servant. He has been friendly to the US and the West in the past. Qaddafi is not considered to be as forceful a personality as Bakkush.

There will be little immediate change in government policies, since King Idris continues to retain all political power in his own hands. Bakkush's resignation will probably presage a return to more traditional policies. His attempts to bring dissenting younger elements into the government will end, and this growing sector of Libyan society will be further alienated from the ruling establishment. His scheduled state visit to the US on 25-26 September presumably is off. [REDACTED]

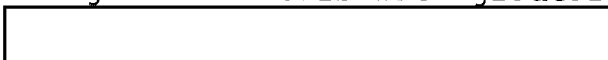
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Colombia: President Lleras announced routine cabinet and gubernatorial changes on 2 September.

The changes involved three cabinet posts--development, education and agriculture--and 18 of the 22 state governors. They had been expected for some time, but congressional elections in March and the Pope's visit to Colombia in late August forced their postponement.

The US Embassy emphasizes that the changes represent no crisis for the Lleras government, but only a reshuffling of forces within the Liberal-Conservative National Front government. The shifts in the cabinet appear designed to strengthen its technical expertise and bring in ministers with greater political support.



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NOTES

25X1 USSR: The Soviets have completed another flight test of the Soyuz spacecraft. Cosmos 238, an unmanned Soyuz capsule, was brought down in the USSR on 1 September after four days in orbit. It [redacted] There is no evidence that it was to rendezvous and dock with another spacecraft. [redacted]

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\* \* \* \*

Congo (Brazzaville): Army strongman Ngouabi yesterday issued a communiqué in the name of the National Council of the Revolution announcing the "acceptance" of the resignation of President Massamba-Debat. The communiqué designated Capt. Raoul, a competent officer but a political unknown, to be acting president. There are indications, however, that Ngouabi may have acted without the full support of other military leaders, notably Defense Minister Poignet to whom Massamba-Debat tried to turn over the presidency. [redacted]

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